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Resist Newsletter, Nov. 12, 1972

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RESIST

*a call to resist
illegitimate authority*

Nov-Dec 1972 -- 763 Massachusetts Ave., Rm. #4, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 -- Newsletter #67

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN VIETNAM

--Chris Jenkins
Indochina Resource Center

A critical area of the Hanoi/Washington draft agreement revealed by the North Vietnamese last October 26 is Article Three which states that "The return of all captured and detained personnel of the parties shall be carried out simultaneously with the US troops' withdrawal."

To Henry Kissinger this article is important because it calls for the release of US POW's now in Northern Vietnam. The article is equally important to the North Vietnamese and the PRG because it provides for the release of their prisoners as well - both military and political - as stipulated by the phrase "all captured and detained personnel."

Kissinger's interpretation, however, as he expressed it in his press conference on the morning of October 26, is that the release of US POW's is not to be reciprocated. "The return of our prisoners is not conditional on the disposition of Vietnamese prisoners in Vietnamese jails on both sides of the conflict," stated Kissinger. To the Vietnamese, however, the agreement is a reciprocal one. All prisoners - including Vietnamese prisoners - are to be returned "simultaneously with the US troops withdrawal."

In addition, Kissinger went on to muddle the substance of Article 3 even further by saying in regard to the political prisoners held by the Thieu regime that "There is a separate provision that South Vietnamese civilians detained in South Vietnam - their future should be determined through negotiations among the Vietnamese parties." Again this Kissinger interpretation contradicts the wording of the agreement which states that all prisoners are to be released. To clarify this point, the North Vietnamese published an editorial in a Hanoi newspaper, Nhan Dan, which states, as quoted in the November 9 New York Times, "...the agreement which should have been signed between Vietnam and the United States provides for the release of all captured patriots and military men and the civilian internees who, under article 216 of the Geneva agreements 'mean all persons who have in any way contributed to the political and armed struggle between the two parties.'"

Such obfuscations on the part of Kissinger have led to a great deal of confusion - especially regarding what provision has been made in the draft agreement for the release of political prisoners held by Thieu. Even the usually clear-sighted I.F. Stone writing in the New York Times, the New York Review of books and elsewhere accepts Kissinger's interpretation and bemoans the fact that the agreement does not call for the release of political prisoners.

But Kissinger's obfuscations are only the tip of the iceberg. The real stumbling block in this affair is, of course, Kissinger's ally, Thieu. Thieu knows the significance of the 300,000 political prisoners he now holds in his jails. Most of the prisoners are neutralists. Although they do not necessarily support the PRG, one thing is for sure - they are all opposed to Thieu and their release would weigh the balance of political power in South Vietnam away from Thieu.

(cont. on page 2)

NAVY RESISTANCE

(LNS) Moving the American military presence in Vietnam from sweaty jungles to air-conditioned aircraft carriers has not, as the government had hoped, stifled the GI resistance and noncooperation which hindered the US land war. The problems which plagued the Army have become endemic to the Navy.

In the past 6 weeks, four of the Navy's nine carriers in the Pacific have been staggered by a combination of racial tension, political resistance, and sabotage. And a multi-million dollar fire aboard the USS Forrestal off the coast of Virginia last summer has now been attributed to deliberate sabotage. There appear to be two kinds of factors involved in the incidents: 1) institutional, including racism, authoritarianism, and differential treatment of officers and crew; and 2) no sailor wants to be the last GI killed in a cruel, imperial war in which the role of the US seems to be ending. The biggest headlines back in the States stemmed from an incident aboard the USS Constellation. Three hundred black sailors peacefully seized the kitchen facilities of the giant carrier to demand reinstatement of six experienced black sailors suddenly dismissed for low scores on tests they took when they first joined the Navy. They also demanded an end to the lily white officer corps on board the 4500-man ship, equal job assignments for blacks and whites, amnesty for all who voiced grievances, and an opportunity to talk with the ship's captain.

For several hours, the Constellation did without food. The blacks sat in the kitchen waiting for the captain, but the captain declined to meet with them. Instead, he dispatched a company of marines with loaded rifles to the kitchen. The blacks refused to engage in a violent confrontation which they feared might play into the hands of the Navy brass. Captain J.D. Ward, upon receiving orders from a superior, then abruptly cut
(cont. on page 4)



(from page 1)

The real danger, however, lies beyond the muddling of the terms of the agreement by Thieu and Kissinger. The real danger lies in the possibility for Thieu at this moment to quietly exterminate hundreds of thousands of his political opponents as they lie hidden from the eyes of the world in his jails. (2)

Charges that the extermination has already begun have already been made by the PRG in Paris. On October 30 Madame Binh declared that "Thieu is now embarked on an extermination campaign with regard to the prisoners...Women and children are being tortured and killed in the Saigon jails. The US is equally responsible, for Thieu is not capable of carrying out such a policy alone."

Tortures and killings in Saigon jails are nothing new. In 1970 we learned about the beatings, the electric shock treatments, the water submersions the cigarette burns on bodies, the pins under fingernails, the miserable diet and health care that are a part of everyday life in the Tiger Cages on Con Son Island and other South Vietnamese prisons. And as recently as last August 13, the New York Times published reports that five political prisoners had died from torture in prison. A subsequent report in that paper on November 2 quoted "Vietnamese Catholic sources in Paris" as saying that Le Cong Giao, a student leader, was on the point of death following torture in Saigon's Chi Hoa jail.

Most revealing of all, however, was the report made on November 8 on CBS radio and television that Hoang Duc Nha, Thieu's nephew and close advisor, announced with some pride in Saigon that 50,000 people had been arrested during the last few weeks and "several exterminated."

It appears that Nixon, Kissinger, and Thieu understand only too well the message of a poem that Ho Chi Minh wrote while in jail in China in 1942:

People who come out of prison can build up the country.
Misfortune is a test of people's fidelity.
Those who protest at injustice are people of true merit.
When the prison doors are opened,
the real dragon will fly out.

ATTENTION PEOPLE - We are putting together a slide show of the projects we support. The show will be used as a fundraising tool. We feel it will give people a more real sense of the work of Resist, since the people we fund often live and work in areas far removed from those where we do our major fundraising. Furthermore we see fundraising as a political education project in itself. We cannot promise that the money raised will go directly to those groups sending in slides but it will be available, as before, to all groups submitting requests to us. With your permission, we would like to make available your address to people seeing the show who want to contribute directly to you. PLEASE send the slides.

The FEMINIST PRESS currently has available biographies on Elizabeth Barret Browning, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Constance de Markievicz. In addition they have reprinted Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "the Yellow Wallpaper" with an afterword by Elaine B. Hedges, "Life in the Iron Mills" by Rebecca Harding Davis with a biographical interpretation by Tillie Olsen and Agnes Smedley's "Daughter of Earth". Also available are a number of books for children. A free poster catalogue can be had on request from
THE FEMINIST PRESS
Box 344
Old Westbury
New York 11568.

WITHIN THE WALLS

The Hovey St. Press has just published "Comrade George," a book about George Jackson's life, political ideas and struggles, and his manner of death. "Comrade George" investigates Jackson's assassination, discusses his "work for the people", and combines a radical analysis of the prison resistance movement with a prescription for revolutionary action.

In recent years black revolutionaries have done the most to force the prison issue into public consciousness. First Eldridge Cleaver and then George Jackson wrote lucidly and without equivocation about the nature and function of prisons in American society. George Jackson in particular emerged as the symbol and theoretician of what has become the prisoner movement in this country. In both "Soledad Brother" and "Blood in My Eye" his solution was uncompromisingly revolutionary.

The space for prisoners to organize is small indeed, and their lives are constantly subjected to arbitrary power and brutality. They quite literally live under the gun. That is why prisoners are trying to arouse the community's interest in their situations - to end their isolation, to build support for their struggle.

"I don't want to die and leave a few sad songs and a hump in the ground as my only monument. I want to leave a world that is liberated from trash, pollution, racism, nation-state wars, and armies, from pomp, bigotry, parochialism, a thousand brands of untruth and licentious, usurious economics. If there is any basis for belief in the universality of man, then we will find it in this struggle against the enemy of all mankind."
--George Jackson

Copies of Comrade George, by Eric Mann, can be obtained from Hovey Street Press; 1255 Cambridge St., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. \$2.00 a copy.

To the Resist newsletter; Nov. 28, 1972

Dear Free World,

Today one of my fellow prisoners in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth was subjected to a weird kind of rape. Earl Williams was assaulted by eight guards. This assault occurred in the "Control Unit" - a euphemism for a building where we are held in solitary confinement when we are found in violation of any of the numerous prison regulations.

Earl has been the victim of constant harassment from prison officials ever since he arrived here because he is determined to maintain his dignity. Because he had not conformed to this institution, he was scheduled to be transferred to another prison. Today he was punched, kicked, and choked after he refused to allow a guard to stick a finger in his rectum. Supposedly this was necessary as part of a search prior to being transferred, but when Earl volunteered to take an X-ray to show that nothing was hidden inside his alimentary canal, the guards informed him that "only a finger wave will serve our purposes." Then the guards moved in and forcibly restrained Earl while one of their number probed his rectum.

Such "finger waves" are a manifestation of a nasty kind of perversion. They are used regularly here at Leavenworth. Many people have withdrawn petitions they had filed in court rather than undergo such humiliating search. How long will people in the free world allow us to be treated like animals? Must we change things by ourselves?

One of the damned,

Odell Bennett
Odell Bennett
United States Penitentiary
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

THE END ?

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--Frank Joyce

What do the Nine points mean? Are they a victory for the Vietnamese? Is the war over?

The original nine points agreement initialed in private by Henry Kissinger is a tremendous victory for the Vietnamese. It is entirely possible that military conflict will continue between the Vietnamese after U.S. withdrawal. But if the essential nine point agreement is signed and implemented it will mean that the U.S., as did the French in 1954, has abandoned the effort to itself directly militarily intervene to protect its puppet government. U.S. and other foreign troops will not directly participate. The first point of the PRG July 1, 1971 seven point plan is achieved. It is true that the PRG is faced with continued struggle of a political and probably military nature in the South. The Thieu government is not deposed. That struggle will be all the more difficult if the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners are not released. But Thieu's own desperate resistance to the agreement is proof of the vastly more vulnerable position of his regime without direct U.S. military support and thus forced to rely on ARVN, his own grossly unpopular apparatus and U.S. "civilian" and economic aid.

Could a settlement have happened four years ago? What factors produced the nine point agreement?

Of course, Nixon could have ended the war four years and millions of wasted lives ago on terms not so very different from those on hand. Realistically however, the agreement was produced over the last four years by a combination of the following:

1. The failure of every U.S. strategy including Vietnamization. The military and political defeat of Johnson by 1968 had forced the beginning of withdrawal. By 1972 withdrawal of the U.S. ground forces was virtually complete. The offensive of 1972 proved the failure of Vietnamization as a means of maintaining U.S. involvement. There is no one who believes that the Thieu government and the ARVN army could have survived the offensive without the massive intervention of U.S. ground naval and air power. And despite the mining of the ports and the intensification of the bombing of the North, the offensive has been sustained, the most sustained even in Vietnamese history. Moreover, the offensive did succeed in isolating the Thieu government even further, militarily through the decimation of the ARVN army, including its command structure, politically through the destruction of "pacification" creating space in which the NLF can operate. Evidence of the success of the offensive is seen in Thieu's increasingly desperate repressive measures

directed at newspapers, the further dismantling of even the illusion of province elections and so on.

2. In terms of maintaining public support for even a "Vietnamized" U.S. involvement in the war, Nixon made a major blunder in handling the issue of the POWs. By making the POWs a central reason for continuing the war, Nixon inflated their significance a thousandfold and more, in the end converting them to an equally strong reason for ending the war. This vulnerability was recognized by the Vietnamese in the People's Peace Treaty of late 1970 and then formally in the seven point proposal of July 1971, in which the PRG offered to exchange U.S. prisoners for U.S. military withdrawal. It is important to remember that immediately following the release of the seven points the Vietnamese indicated that the military and political points could be dealt with separately. This changed only after the diversion of Nixon's trip to Peking and the one man election of Thieu in October 1971. Recognizing as it does, the right of self determination of the Vietnamese and the essential unity of Vietnam, the nine points in the agreement are substantial points for which the Vietnamese have fought all along. Just as it was possible in the 1940s for the Vietnamese to deal with the French only after the Japanese occupation was ended, it will become far more possible to deal effectively with Thieu after the U.S. military occupation is ended, particularly presuming that whatever the U.S.'s neo-colonial schemes are there is no country to play the military intervention saboteur role which the U.S. assumed after the French left.

3. The Nixon doctrine, including the detente with China and the Soviet Union, essentially recognizes the counter productiveness and futility of massive U.S. military involvement against well organized struggles for national liberation as a means of protecting the U.S. economic position. The liabilities outweigh the assets. The domino theory is correct in that faced with increased capitalist competition and the stability of communist countries such as China, the DRV, North Korea and Cuba which fore-closed billions to U.S. imperialist exploitation, the U.S. has been forced to abandon belligerence and military aggression in favor of withdrawal and big power political accommodation. Absolutely essential to this process has been the continuing rebellion within the ranks of the U.S. military, presently focused in the Navy which has severely impaired the capacity of the U.S. to implement a policy of aggression. Hence the emphasis on "self-reliance" for Japan in particular in protecting its own growing Asian empire. Furthermore, it is naive at best to believe, as the U.S. press would universally have it, that all of the pressure to "soften their terms" has come from Washington through Moscow and Peking onto Hanoi. Are there other powers in the world or not? Has the United States given up nothing but Chinese admission to the U.N. and some grain? It seems clear that there is some pressure from Hanoi through Moscow and Peking onto Washington as well. Indeed Henry Kissinger may say the breakthrough came on October 8 if that suits his purpose, but serious negotiations in fact resumed shortly after Nixon's return

from Moscow and in the middle of the liberation forces' offensive and have continued ever since. It is hardly useful, or accurate, to indulge deeply conditioned anti-communist or anti-Vietnamese feelings to the point of concluding either that China and the Soviet Union have completely "sold-out" the Vietnamese or that the Vietnamese as some hold occurred in 1954, don't know what is in their own best interest or are operating from a position of weakness and defeat.

4. The U.S. elections were doubtless the least important factor in producing the nine point accords. Neither the Vietnamese nor Nixon probably ever believed that McGovern had a chance.

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short the ship's training cruise and returned to San Diego. Once there the remaining protestors, 122 blacks (more than a quarter of all blacks on board), were transferred off the ship.

According to Jake Colbert of the San Diego Black Servicemen's caucus, 10 "hand-picked" whites were added to this group "to mix in so that the news media would just talk about 132 sailors, and not mention the racial issue." When the beached sailors staged a one-day sit-down on the dock at San Diego, refusing to reboard the ship, they were fined and restricted for unauthorized absences. Captain Ward, still refusing to discuss the grievances, then arranged for them to be dispersed to as many different locations as possible for various forms of punishment. Throughout the episode, said Sydney Glass, a spokesman for the sailors, the captain attempted to provoke the sailors to violence. Their non-violent response was based on the fresh memory of another dramatic incident on board the USS Kittyhawk.

While its fighterbombers hovered over Vietnam, the Kittyhawk in the Gulf of Tonkin was the site of a major brawl between black and white crewmen. When the teargas cleared, 46 sailors required hospitalization, and charges were brought against 25, all black. To prevent a railroad at sea, the NAACP successfully pressured the Navy to bring the men back for stateside trials in December. But the fact remains that no white sailors face the threat of punishment for their part in the brawl. In Washington, Navy Secretary John Warner dismissed the problems aboard the Kittyhawk and Constellation as the result of small groups of troublemakers. But Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, ranking admiral of the Navy, decided the fleet would never cool down unless the Navy admitted a slightly larger problem. His tough words against racism to an assortment of admirals in Washington made headlines throughout the country. In spite of Zumwalt's directives that racial harmony commence immediately, sailors on the carrier Coral Sea, based in Alameda, California, are reportedly arming themselves in preparation for racial confrontation. Two stabbings have already taken place, and if the carrier leaves San Francisco Bay, it will probably face a rougher time at sea.

The Forrestal, known in Norfolk, Va. as the "USS Zippo," clinched its reputation as a fire-prone ship for all time on the night of July 10, 1972, in what may be the biggest sabotage incident in US naval history. Three separate fires were discovered, in the War Communications Room annex, and in the quarters of Rear Admiral Moorer. Between \$8 and \$12 million worth of damage was done to the War Room, the Combat Information Center, the Computer Room, the switchboard, the Detection and Tracking Room, and to the admiral's quarters. The ship's impending Mediterranean cruise was delayed two months, and the questioning began.

Jeffrey Grant Allison, a white sailor who had been on the ship two weeks, was standing watch with two other sailors when the fires were discovered. The Naval command is trying to pin the blame for both the fire and the rebellion on Jeffrey. About a week after the fires, he was arrested and charged with 25 violations against five articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, concerned with the willful damaging of military property, hazarding a vessel, willfully and maliciously setting fire to an inhabited structure, sabotage, and the sale and possession of dangerous drugs. In pre-trial confinement since his arrest, Jeff finally came to trial Nov. 27. The government charged: that Jeff had access to the area in question, that he could have set the fire, and that he verbally admitted setting it to the Navy investigator. The defense answered that many people had access to the area, many people could have done it, and that the alleged confession came at the end of the third session of intensive interrogation, at a time when Jeff

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was physically exhausted and without the benefit of counsel. As for the drugs, the only evidence is in the form of verbal testimony. The defense states that there is no evidence to support the government's charges, and that the investigation itself was unconstitutional.

The carrier Ranger, also based in San Francisco Bay, has had a difficult time even getting out to sea. After a postponement of three months, it is now scheduled to leave for the airwar in Indochina this week. Acts of sabotage began to reverbrate throughout the ship beginning in late May. Sailors cut fire hoses, contaminated the ship's drinking water - once with salt water and once with airplane fuel - started small fires, damaged pressure guages and oil pumps, and fouled up the generators. Several times bomb threats and rumors of mass desertions spread through the ship. The Navy itself confirmed 12 incidents since May, and crew members have revealed another 16. Until late July, the ship's plan to depart for Vietnam on August 1 remained unaffected. The commanding officer, Capt. H.P. Glindeman, Jr., was not about to be intimidated by what Admiral Charles Duncan calls "those few with mental aberrations who cause sabotage." However, shortly before the ship was to leave Alameda the Ranger's captain was given reason to change his mind. A paint scraper and two 12-inch bolts were slipped into the #4 main reduction gears. The mechanism was destroyed and the ship couldn't move. Replacing the gears took the Navy three and a half months and cost over \$800,000. Meanwhile, the crew of 4700 men were idle.

The Navy fingered Patrick Chenoweth, 21, a quiet, unassuming sailor from Fuyallup, Washington, as the saboteur. They charged Chenoweth with "willful destruction of government property" and "sabotage in time of war." The charges could result in a sentence of up to 35 years in jail. The evidence against him consists of testimony from three witnesses who claim they heard Chenoweth confess to his friends. Two of the three witnesses testified that they thought Chenoweth was joking when the alleged statements were made. After a minimum of investigation, Eric Seitz, Chenoweth's attorney, discovered over twenty men who overheard similar admissions all over the ship or admitted to having made similar statements themselves. Sailors were apparently eager to take credit for the ingenious act. "There are no witnesses," says Seitz, "to the act or acts which caused the damage, no fingerprints or other physical evidence linking Pat to the damage. There is evidence that literally hundreds of persons aboard the Ranger had access to the gears in question and that many persons were heard to make admissions similar to those attributed to my client."

Since Chenoweth's arrest, sabotage on the ship has continued, and political activity has increased. In October, while the Ranger executed trial maneuvers, two oil pumps went up in flames and the #2 engine had to shut down due to unusual vibrations. Anti-war slogans and stickers began to appear on the damaged equipment. And a few weeks ago, an anti-war slide show, smuggled onto the Ranger, made its shipboard debut in the carpenter's shack.

The Navy's problems are likely to grow more intense, rather than to decline, with the transition to an all-volunteer armed services. All of the services' recruitment programs focus particularly on black communities and poor white communities, where unemployment hits hardest and it is easier to recruit. And when blacks, who are often poorly educated and fail to score well on white-oriented aptitude tests come into the Navy, they are often given the worst jobs - mopping floors and scraping paint - while whites are trained as technical specialists.

Enlisted men and women are angry, and the millions of cases of petty harrassment, special privilege, racial prejudice and discrimination, long working hours, speed ups, unsafe working conditions, and the Indochina War, have produced these results.

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MEDICAL AID FOR INDOCHINA

--Ethan Signer

The Vietnamese knew that the American people are basically against the war and that they do have some minimal leverage in an election year that is not present at other times. And although the intensity of opposition cannot be expected to be so great when fewer Americans are being killed and otherwise directly affected, the fact of the matter is the campaign was not a debate between war or peace but rather "peace with honor" vs. "peace with surrender". No one voted for war and the congressional elections, which Nixon might well have hoped to make more favorable with his "peace is at hand" maneuver, are further proof of the fact.

Will the accords be signed? Was it all a hoax? What is the delay?

The treachery of the United States in matters involving treaties is well established and thus anything is possible. Certainly the U.S. is creating and taking advantage of every delay to strengthen the Thieu regime and overcome his entirely justified anxieties about his future. Indeed, as readers who have seen the film "Super Fly" are aware, there are conditions under which a clever puppet can, at least for a time, pull its own strings to the consternation of the puppeteer. But logic and the evidence suggests that it is most likely that something very close to the original nine point accord will be signed.

What should the anti-war movement do?

It is generally that the most intense possible campaign to generate pressure to "Sign and Implement" the agreement is necessary for two reasons. First, if it all has been a hoax, or for other reasons the agreement is not signed or implemented it is obvious that pressure must be maintained. The American people did vote for peace not war; Nixon did commit himself not, this time, to a "secret plan" but to a very explicit one, neither the American people nor Congress is completely in his hands by any means and if stalling and delay passes into completely reneging on the accords the anti-war movement will be faced with a resurgence of energy from the ensuing sense of betrayal. (The fall '69 demonstrations, which were the largest ever, took place after all, following Nixon's initial failure to end the war after promising to do so.)

Second, if, as is more likely, the agreement is signed, it is essential that we explain, to ourselves and others, that it is not a victory for clever Henry Kissinger and invincible U.S. imperialism, but rather for the Vietnamese people and the anti-war movement.

If we cannot overcome our defeatism even in the face of victory how do we expect to continue the struggle against imperialism for four more years? The agreement when it comes will be a victory for Nixon and hence a defeat for the Vietnamese and ourselves only to the extent we allow it. For all its divisiveness, weaknesses and failures this is not the time to demean the accomplishments of what has been a remarkable people's struggle -- one which the Vietnamese and the U.S. government have also taken more seriously than we ourselves. Many have contributed and many will be available for the next phase of our struggle whatever it may be.



Medical Aid for Indochina, founded in 1971, collects money which it uses to buy medical supplies for the victims of US bombing in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The Red Crosses of the areas of Indochina under US attack inform MAI regularly of their needs and provide channels for shipment. Thus far MAI has forwarded over \$77,000 worth of material including tetracycline and penicillin antibiotics, Quinine and synthetic antimalarials, heart stimulators and recording apparatus, and highly portable life-support equipment.

Medical assistance is significant to the Indochinese people. They need aid for their relatively sophisticated health and medical care facilities which are excellent but limited in equipment and supplies. In addition, medical aid is an important expression of solidarity, it demonstrates to the Indochinese that more and more Americans realize they are not our enemies.

Providing medical aid is also important for Americans, it is a tangible, personal and positive way of expressing both protest against the US government's war policies, and support of the Indochinese who have been struggling over 2000 years.

There is much talk of peace in Vietnam; yet, hidden in the news we read that "yesterday saw the heaviest raids in the history of the war... yesterday B-52 sorties were the densest in the last three weeks." New victims are being "generated" in unabated numbers. Even when, and if, the guns become silent, countless victims will continue to require attention for years to come.

This fall, local medical aid projects took place in communities and on campuses across the country during National MAI Week, from October 8 through 14. The week included projects at 69 communities and campuses with an additional 13 more localities whose projects were planned for the following month.

The MAI week was successful financially and also in terms of information distributed about the war and medical conditions in Indochina. Gross receipts total \$38,752.36. These funds are already being used to purchase medical supplies and equipment for the people of Indochina. National MAI week has also given MAI a mailing list of several hundred people who have actively worked with MAI. Medical aid has been adopted as a major organizing focus by the Indochina Peace Campaign, People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Women Strike for Peace, New American Movement, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and others.

A wide variety of projects were initiated for National MAI week. Some people raised money by organizing the sale of blood to hospitals; others organized fasts with donations of lunch money; others collected money at exhibitions, performances and speeches dealing with Indochinese culture; others organized door to door canvasses, contributions of all or part of a days wages, or sales of buttons, posters and calendars; benefit concerts, dances, art shows, book drives, bake sales, auctions, parties, films, lectures, etc.

Local medical aid organizing projects of this type will continue to be one of the major activities of MAI.

Please contact us for information and send any donations to our new address:

Medical Aid for Indochina
140 6th street
Cambridge, Mass. 02142
telephone 617-492-0205

LEANING ON LAVELLE

General Lavelle not only violated his orders but initiated a new level of cynicism in the practice of war crimes by authorizing illegal air strike against the Vietnamese people. It is incredible that he could have gotten away with actions that implicated hundreds of American personnel without the knowledge and consent of his military and civilian superiors. Yet, as with his comrade-in-arms, Lt. Calley, only he was reprimanded and his punishment, forced retirement and a minimal demotion, bore little relation to the murder and destruction he ordered. Now that it is certain that his case is closed, so far as the military and government is concerned, we must seek other means of making him and his superiors accountable for their crimes. Clearly, many of those who participated in the illegal bombings - airmen and ground support personnel as well as their families - may have suffered mental and physical injuries as well as other kinds of damages as a result of their participation.

It is probable that some of them, on realizing how they have been hurt by their government, may wish to initiate civil suits for damages against their military and civilian superiors. Thru such suits it will be possible to reopen the question of accountability so that the American people can make their own decision. (Damage suits cannot easily be blocked in civil court.)

We ask readers to aid us in locating military personnel who participated in or covered for these raids (or members of their families) who feel entitled to damages from those who ordered them to commit such crimes. If you know of possible plaintiffs for these suits, please advise them to write to Resist so that we can explore the legal possibilities with them. Or, if you can advise us as to persons we should contact please write to us as soon as possible.

JUSTICE IN QUEBEC

On November 13, three of Quebec's trade union leaders, Marcel Pepin, President of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (C.S.N.), Louis Laberge, President of the Quebec Federation of Labor (F.T.Q.) and Yvon Charbonneau, President of the Quebec Teachers' Corporation (C.E.Q.), lost their appeal against one year jail sentences for contempt of court handed down last April during the strike of public service workers.

Five judges of the Quebec Appeal Court ruled that the one year jail terms were "entirely deserved" and "no lesser penalty" would have been just. The one year sentence is the maximum possible under Canadian law for contempt. The judges reduced sentences for 30 of 44 union officials who had been sentenced to six months in jail and fines of \$5,000 on similar contempt of court charges. They also upheld the lower court decision against members of 13 hospital unions on contempt charges, fines of \$2,000 to \$50,000 had been levied on them.

Noting that the annual fees of members in each of the 13 hospital unions does not exceed \$60 per year, the court said it realizes the fines could be hard on smaller unions but added: "this contribution by individual members (to pay the fine) will remind them of their social duty. The union members who will have to find the necessary funds to clear the fines will have something healthy to think about and will thus acquire, it is hoped, a greater maturity that will teach them to resist in the future the prophets of anarchy". "It is not a popular decision you must expect from us", the judges wrote, "but a decision which is just and fair to all".

In further news of the Quebec struggle, a dossier was released last month by the Parti Quebecois

(6) (Independence Party) containing a report compiled by the Canadian army on the political activities of Trade Union militants opposed to the Trudeau and Bourassa (leader of the Quebec parliament) regimes. Marcel Pepin said the report was designed "to discredit the C.S.N (Confederation of National Trade Unions) in the eyes of English Canadians, to elect liberal candidates in the federal election and to prevent the C.S.N. from organizing the civil service". Rene Levesque, leader of the Parti Quebecois denounced the dossier as "repugnant and ridiculous" and added "such activities are usually carried out by military regimes in occupied territories."

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER GRANTS

Ain't I A Woman? , Iowa City, Iowa; They were given a grant to replace supplies lost in recent floods. They put out a woman's paper and have been doing so for two years.

Prisoners Coalition , Washington State Penitentiary; The coalition has been formed for over one year now and their aim is to politicize fellow inmates and use educational films for that purpose. They recieved a grant to pay for postage on films from American Documentary Films.

Great Lakes Movement for Democratic Military, North Chicago, Ill.; They have been going through a rough financial period and a lot of reorganizing but sound stable now. They cut back on publication of "Navy Times are Changin" and were given a grant to start publishing again since the paper is their main organizing tool.

Cairo United Front ,Cairo, Ill; For the past four years Cairo has been involved in serious political, economic and social struggle which has brought about severe military repercussions. They were given a grant to continue that struggle.

Black Panther Party , Illinois Chapter; They were given a grant to pay for repairs on their bus. The bus is used for their Free Busing to Prisoners Program which was initiated two years ago.

United Farmworkers of Florida; They were given a grant to meet expenses of their office, transportation, newspaper, materials and emergency food and clothing.

Up Against the Bulkhead, San Francisco, Ca; They were given a grant to cover the costs of an educational and fundraising mailing.

Gulf Coast Pulpwood Association, Forest Home, Alabama; They were given a grant to be used in their supplies co-op.

SOS, Los Angeles, Ca; They are working on a pamphlet describing article 15 along with the Center for Serviceman's Rights in San Diego. They were given funds to go towards their printing costs.

Thế Hệ, Montreal, Canada; They are a group of Vietnamese in Canada who put out a magazine in Vietnamese on the war. They were given a grant to cover costs on the magazine, they themselves are really broke at this time.

National Black Draft Counselors, Chicago, Ill.; They were given a grant to go towards their annual budget. They stressed a need for black counseling now with the notion of an "all volunteer army" being so close.

